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Remarks To 18: Please take the lead in being the focal point with State on this matter. You should coord coordinate with relevant components re any State requests for material to ensure proper protection afforded Agency records.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 12, 1985

Executive Registry
85- 4451

11B 'A Registry 85-3702

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

THE ACTING ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

THE PUBLIC PRINTER

SUBJECT:

Timely Publication of the Foreign Relations Series

The documentary publication Foreign Relations of the United States has presented the official record of American diplomacy since the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. This orderly and timely publication of the official diplomatic record is extremely important. The accurate understanding of the history of American diplomacy is necessary not only for our own citizens but also for our allies and adversaries abroad. And, while the continued public disclosure of diplomatic negotiations and undertakings must be balanced carefully against the needs of national security and the expectation of confidentiality in the diplomatic process, the historic record when published should be as complete as possible. The documentary publication series, Foreign Relations, is the proper vehicle for systematic official disclosure of the major documentation regarding American foreign policy in its proper historical context.

I therefore direct that the authoritative foreign affairs record be gathered and appropriately published thirty years after the event in a manner fully consistent with other directives on the release and publication of official information. In particular I ask that the Secretary of State take necessary measures to ensure the publication by 1990 of the foreign affairs volumes through 1960. The published record should reflect the activities of those federal agencies with responsibilities for the conduct of relations with foreign governments and international organizations.

To assist in this important task, I ask that each of you direct your agencies and staffs to cooperate with the Department of State in the collection, declassification review, and publication of these volumes. You should assure all proper access to 2

authoritative historical records to appropriately cleared official Department of State historians and that the declassification review for publication is accorded the necessary priority to achieve this 30-year publication timeframe.

I ask the Department of State to oversee the convening of periodic meetings of appropriate interagency representatives to review and improve cooperative procedures and plans to meet this 30-year publication timeframe. In addition, I direct that the Department of State make an annual status report on the progress made toward this goal.

Roused Ragon